

Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

25 February 1983

Honorable Don Ritter
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Don:

Thank you for your note of 3 February and the enclosed copy of an item that appeared in The Washington Times concerning the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II.

We have had a number of inquiries relating to this subject, and, as you know, it is the general policy of this Agency neither to confirm nor deny allegations appearing in any of the media. However, because of the worldwide interest and importance of the subject of the attempted assassination of the Pope, I wish to take exception to the numerous newspaper articles and television commentaries that allege a conspiracy at the highest levels of our Government to suppress the KGB's involvement in this matter. It is always regrettable when hearsay and innuendo are presented as fact.

It would be extremely difficult and fruitless for us to answer each and every insinuation of ineptitude and cover-up currently being expounded against the White House, the Central Intelligence Agency, and me. The President and other senior U.S. Government officials have consistently stated that this issue is an internal matter of the Italian Government, and it would be inappropriate for the U.S. Government, or the Central Intelligence Agency, to interfere in any way. The Agency does, of course, provide appropriate officials of the U.S. Government any intelligence in its possession relevant to this matter.

We have also kept both the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence informed on any information we have received on this matter.

I hope this alleviates your concerns and those of your colleagues and I appreciate your giving me the opportunity to clarify the Agency's and my position on a matter of such importance.

Sincerely,

William J. Casey

Director of Central Intelligence

*Dear Don - As I've told
you & Senator D. Amodeo
of our committees
any implication that the CIA is covering up or suppressing
information leading to proof of Bulgarian or Soviet involvement in
Pope's life is pure bunk Bill*



Executive	Entry
83-0751	

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

DON RITTER
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT
PENNSYLVANIA

2/3/83

Dear Bill,

This thing is capable
of breaking into the open
here on the hill, I've
talked with a number
of colleagues whose
response ranges from
stunned to mystified.

Many of us, your friends,
are seeking an answer or
some clarification to what
the hell is going on. Sincerely
Don

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